

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 04290 301334Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3634

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4290

EXDIS

EYES ONLY FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (ROBINSON, CHARLES W.)

SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY'S VISIT

1. I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR VISIT. AS INDICATED CAIRO 4217, HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR YOU AND YOUR PARTY OBTAINED AT MERIDIEN. DEPENDING UPON YOUR PREFERENCE, HOWEVER, WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HAVE YOU STAY AT RESIDENCE.

2. AS YOU MAY HAVE HEARD FROM THE SECRETARY, THE EGYPTIANS ARE EXPRESSING SOME IMPATIENCE THAT YOUR MISSION WILL ONLY BE CONSULTATIVE AND EXPLORATORY. FAHMY CONTENTS THEY EARLIER PROVIDED SECRETARY SIMON AND YOU WITH NEEDED DATA AND THAT WHAT IS NOW NECESSARY IS AN EXPEDITIOUS ACTION PROGRAM ON PART OF USG. HE CLAIMS SADAT FEELS THE SAME WAY. I HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE DO NOT HAVE NEEDED DATA AND THAT WITHOUT IT WE ARE HOBBLING IN ANY ATTEMPT TO SEE WHAT MIGHT BE DONE. FAHMY GRUMBLY ACCEPTS THIS.

3. I AM A BIT CONCERNED THAT THEY WILL TRY TO DUMP THE ENTIRE PROBLEM OF FINDING WAYS TO SOLVE THEIR LIQUIDITY PROBLEM ON US AND THEN CRY IF WE ARE UNABLE TO DO SO. I HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT, WHILE WE WANT TO HELP IN EVERY FEASIBLE WAY, OUR OWN RESOURCES ARE LIMITED AND THEY SHOULD NOT REASONABLY EXPECT US TO BE THE CRUTCH FOR THE EGYPTIAN ECONOMY. OUR PURPOSE HAS BEEN TO HELP EGYPT HELP ITSELF AND THIS MEANS GOING
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WILL HAVE TO TAKE SOME HARD POLICY DECISIONS. AND

THERE'S THE RUB.

4. IT IS ALREADY APPARENT THAT THIS GOVERNMENT, NO MORE THAN ITS PREDECESSORY, IS EITHER UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO TAKE THE STRONG MEASURES REQUIRED AND SUGGESTED BY IMF. IN FACT, RECENT IMF MISSION HAS CREATED SOME ILL-WILL HERE. THE PROBLEM IS THE ONE I MENTIONED TO YOU. THE EGYPTIANS ARE AFRAID OF THE DAMAGING POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF STRONG ACTION, HOWEVER NEEDED IT MAY BE. THEY WANT TO HAVE THEIR CAKE AND EAT IT TOO.

5. I WANTED TO FLAG THE ABOVE TO YOUR ATTENTION BEFORE YOUR TRIP SO THAT YOU CAN PREPARE YOURSELF. WARM REGARDS.
EILTS

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